SFChronicle

San Clemente $506,000

Nixon Mortgage to Be Paid Off

Los Angeles

The remaining $506,000 due on former President Nixon's San Clemente estate is expected to be paid by tomorrow, the attorney for the sellers of the property said yesterday.

Charles Horning, attorney for the Cotton Estate, said he had been informed by Mr. Nixon's personal attorney, Dean S. Butler of Los Angeles, that a certified check for the $506,000 plus about $17,000 in interest will arrive in his office as a six-month extension on the final mortgage payment which expires this week.

Last year a White House statement said Mr. Nixon's share of the last "balloon" payment on the estate, which he purchased in 1969 for $1.5 million, would be $226,440.

The rest, the statement said, would be the obligation of an investment company formed by industrialist Robert H. Abplanalp and banker Charles G. Rebozo. The company, the B & C Investment Co., purchased roughly 23 of the 28.9 acres of the estate from Mr. Nixon in 1970 for a reported $1,249,000.

Apparently when Nixon attorneys negotiated the six-month extension last July, about $94,000 of the $600,000 owed as the "balloon" payment was paid, leaving the $506,000 plus interest that Horning referred to yesterday.

Horning said he is not certain how much of the payment he has been told he will receive will actually come from Mr. Nixon.

He indicated that Mr. Nixon's signature will not be on the check.

This week's expected payment will mean that Mr. Nixon and his partners have paid off the San Clemente property.

The payment may renew speculation about the state of Mr. Nixon's finances.

Last summer, Butler described the former President as having a severe cash flow problem, and, so far as is known, Mr. Nixon has not sold off any of his major property assets since leaving the presidency.

However, there have been reports that Mr. Nixon may be receiving a sizable advance on his projected memoirs.

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